DC

10

The Joker

THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

ROSENBERG
DI GIANDOMENICO
FRANCAVILLA
FAJARDO JR.

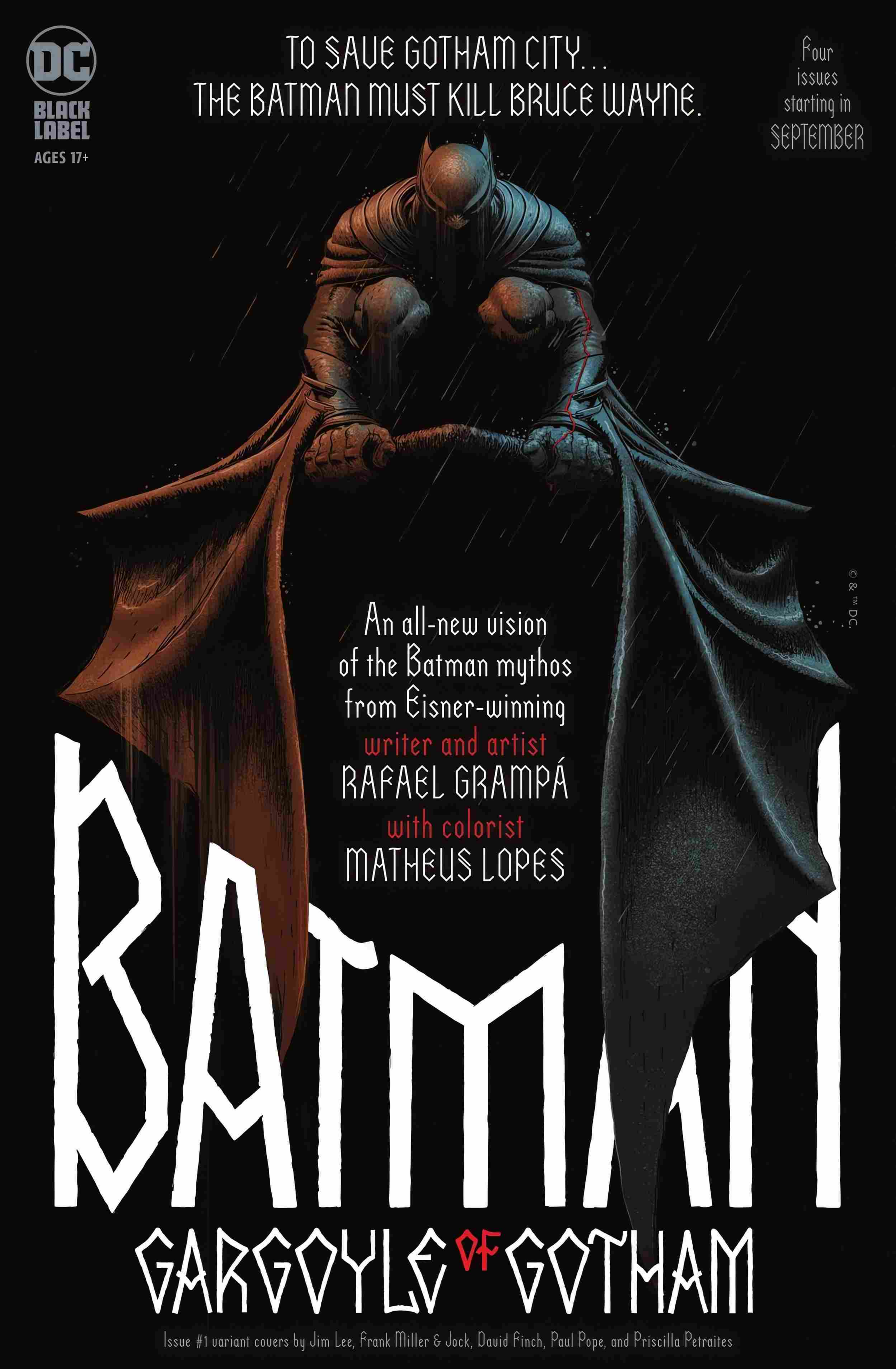
15+
TEEN PLUS

DC BLACK LABEL

AGES 17+

TO SAVE GOTHAM CITY...
THE BATMAN MUST KILL BRUCE WAYNE.

Four issues starting in SEPTEMBER



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An all-new vision
of the Batman mythos
from Eisner-winning
writer and artist
RAFAEL GRAMPÁ
with colorist
MATHEUS LOPES

BATMAN

GARGOYLE OF GOTHAM

Issue #1 variant covers by Jim Lee, Frank Miller & Jock, David Finch, Paul Pope, and Priscilla Petraites

OLD TOWN.
GOTHAM.

I'M GOING TO ASK YOU THIS AGAIN, SLOWLY. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR ANSWER.

WHERE ARE MY MEN? WHAT DID COMMISSIONER MONTOYA DO?

*Heeheehee...*WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...*HEH...* WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HENCHMEN ARE EITHER...***HA!***

I used to work with a kleptomaniac.

HEEHEEHEE...

HA HA!

HAHAHA!

He never got my jokes.

WE'RE GONNA DIE! HA!

@#%$--

HAHA!

HELP ME GET THIS OPEN!

ATTENTION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING.

WE HAVE HIT SOME ROUGH AIR, CAUSING DEPRESSURIZATION IN THE CABIN. BUT DON'T WORRY.

OXYGEN MASKS WILL BE DEPLOYED FOR YOUR SAFETY.

MAKE SURE YOUR MASK IS SECURED TIGHTLY BEFORE HELPING ANY POLICE OFFICERS OR HENCHMEN WITH THEIRS.

IF ALL MASKS ARE FULLY SECURED, OUR CREW WILL BE ALONG MOMENTARILY TO TAKE YOUR DRINK ORDERS.

HELLO THERE. MASK ON A MASK, WHAT A NICE LOOK FOR YOU. WHAT CAN I GET YOU TO DRINK THIS EVENING?

He took everything literally.

HA HA HA!

SIR, I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT YOU OFF.

HA HAAAA!

I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO GET ANY MORE DEAD THAN THAT.

CAN WE JUST GET ON WITH WHATEVER YOU CAME HERE FOR?

...YOU'RE RIGHT. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY EXCITEMENT THERE, ROMAN.

I LOVE THAT SMELL. IT'S FUNNY HOW THE THINGS THAT KILL ONE MAN CAN GIVE ANOTHER SUCH A THRILL.

HILARIOUS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, KILLING MEN IS WHAT GIVES ME THE GREATEST THRILL.

AS YOU MAY HAVE INFERRED, I AM A LITTLE ANNOYED THAT ALL MY PEERS, MY FELLOW ***CRIME LORDS OF GOTHAM,*** AREN'T TAKING ME SERIOUSLY.

TO BE A CRIME BOSS, YOU HAVE TO HAVE EMPLOYEES, JOKER.

I HEARD YOU CAN'T FIND PEOPLE TO WORK FOR YOU.

FUNNY, I HEARD THE SAME ABOUT YOU. BUT NO. I'VE GOT MEN. I JUST HAD TO LOWER MY STANDARDS A BIT...

WELL, A LOT, ACTUALLY.

THE WATERFRONT.

I UNDERSTAND. BUT SOMEONE MUST KNOW WHERE THE IMPOSTOR CAME FROM.

NEITHER OF US WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE JOKER EMPTY-HANDED. WE--

TELL 'EM TO PULL THEIR DAMNED GUTS OUT IF YOU GOTTA. STOMP ON SOME @#!$%. MAKE 'EM SCARED.

BOSS WANTS ME TO REMIND YOU TO BE FIRM.

YES, I'LL TELL HIM.

WHAT'D HE SAY?! HE DON'T TELL ME NOTHING. I TELL HIM WHAT'S UP.

HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT ALL THE MEN ARE WORKING VERY HARD, BUT THEY HAVE NO LEADS AS OF YET.

GUYS WE GOT ARE TRASH.

WELL, I THINK THE HENCHMAN SHORTAGE THIS TOWN IS EXPERIENCING, COUPLED WITH THE JOKER'S REPUTATION, HAS REALLY IMPACTED OUR POTENTIAL CANDIDATE--

WHAT THE @!#$ IS THIS SUPPOSED TO GE?

WHAT IS WHAT?

I THINK THE DOLL IS TALKING ABOUT ME, WESKER.

EAT LEAD, YA TWO-GIT CAPE.

OH NO. THIS IS BAD. THIS IS BAD.

GAH!

WE'RE GOING TO TALK NOW, PUPPET, OR YOUR FRIEND HERE GETS SHOT.

GO AHEAD, GOY SCOUT. YOU AIN'T GOT THE STONES.

P-PLEASE DON'T.

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

I KNEW IT. YA LOUSY, LOW-RENT, SOFT-TONED--

BLAM

ACK! YOU SHOT...YOU SHOT...

TAKE IT EASY, WESKER. IT'S A GUT SHOT. AS LONG AS YOU GET HIM TO THE WOODSHOP QUICKLY HE SHOULD MAKE IT.

BUT FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE JOKER.

AS YOU'RE AWARE, SOMEONE HAS BEEN PRETENDING TO BE ME. THEY'VE BEEN KILLING CRIME BOSSES, BLOWING UP POLICE STATIONS, TAKING OVER TOWNS. IT'S ALL BEEN QUITE AMUSING.

BUT LIKE ALL JOKES, EVENTUALLY IT LOSES ITS CHARM.

Polonius said "Brevity is the soul of wit."

YOU'RE A GROWN MAN WHO LIKES TO PLAY DRESS-UP, ROMAN. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME WHO IS DRESSING UP AS ME.

AND DON'T WORRY. I KNOW IT'S NOT YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE WHEN HE SHOT ME IN THE HEAD.

WAIT... THAT WAS *YOU?*

THAT WAS A PIVOTAL MOMENT THAT WE SHARED. I'M A LITTLE HURT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME.

YOU HAD A BAG ON YOUR HEAD.

AND YOU HAD A DUMB MASK ON YOUR FACE, BUT I'D STILL REMEMBER IF SOMEONE SHOT YOU IN FRONT OF ME.

IF YOU KNOW IT WASN'T ME, WHY DON'T YOU ASK SOMEONE ELSE WHO DOES DISGUISES IF IT'S THEM? CLAYFACE. HUSH.

ISN'T THERE SOME GUY NAMED LOOKALIKE OR SOMETHING NOW?

Polonius was also a conniving rat who got everything wrong, gave terrible advice, and got murdered for it.

THIS ISN'T HUSH'S STYLE. AND I KNOW IT'S NOT CLAYFACE BECAUSE...

But he was right about brevity. It's always important to stop before it's gone on too long...

GAH!...

THUNK

ROMY, BABY. NO NEED FOR THAT GUN.

I'VE GOT MY MEN SCOURING THE CITY FOR CLUES RIGHT NOW. BUT I WANTED TO COME TO YOU PERSONALLY.

JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, YOU CRAZY @#$%. YOU TWO ARE AT WAR. YOU KILL HIM OR HE KILLS YOU. NONE OF IT MATTERS TO ME--

ARRGH.

I FEEL LIKE IT SHOULD MATTER THOUGH.

BECAUSE I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU WITH A KNIFE AND HE'S ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

OH. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW? *HA!* NOW THAT'S FUNNY.

HE'S ALREADY HERE...

UNDER GOTHAM.

HELLO? MAN-BAT? OUR BOSS WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS. HELLO?

WHY COULDN'T WE GET SOMEONE MORE NORMAL? THIS GUY REALLY HALF A BAT?

MAN-BAT'S NOT HERE, BOYS. BUT I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU...

N-NO. THAT'S OKAY. WE SHOULD BE GOING.

THE ***REAL*** JOKER SENDS HIS REGARDS.

FWOOM

PICK UP, YOU VILE LITTLE PERVERT.

YOU'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE.

AH, FINALLY. LISTEN TO ME, WESKER. THE IMPOSTOR IS HERE, IN GOTHAM. CALL EVERYONE BACK TO OUR BASE AND WE'LL REGROUP THERE.

WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR HIM OR HE'LL HIT US HARD.

DID YOU MISS ME, CLOWN? BECAUSE I'VE MISSED YOU.

ARE YOU...WHO IS THIS?

I DON'T PLAN ON MISSING AGAIN.

SORRY. YOU HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER. NO HABLO INGLÉS.

TROUBLE WITH THE HELP?

WHAT UP! YOU GOT SHOCKY! I--

OH, HI BOSS. NO, I'M AT THE WAREHOUSE.

CALL EVERYONE BACK. TELL THEM TO GO TO THE WAREHOUSE NOW.

TELL HIM THEY'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.

YES, THAT IS NORMALLY ***PUPPETMAN'S*** JOB, SHOCKY. BUT I THINK THE ONLY FUN MEMBER OF THE BAT-FAMILY MURDERED HIM, SO YOU GOT A PROMOTION. YAY.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, BOSS.

AND I GOT SOME GOOD NEWS. ONE OF MY GUYS FOUND OUT WHO THE FAKE-ASS JOKER IS.

NO, I'MMA TELL YOU WHEN YOU GET HERE. I WANNA SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

JUST TELL ME NOW, SHOCKY. DON'T HANG UP. SHOCKY...

HELLO?

HE SEEMS NICE.

JOKER'S WAREHOUSE.
20 MINUTES LATER.

THIS JUST HAPPENED.

YEAH, SOMEBODY HAD ALL THE FUN WITHOUT US.

BLAM BLAM

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

KILLER'S STILL IN HERE.

FWAK

STOP!

I KNOW HER! STOP.

THIS YOUR HANDIWORK, LADY?

I JUST GOT HERE. WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING WHEN THAT OTHER ONE OPENED FIRE ON ME.

SORRY ABOUT THAT. SHE'S...DIFFICULT. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR BACKYARD, MANHUNTER?

I'VE BEEN TRACKING THE JOKER. I THINK THIS MUST BE HIS WORK.

THAT'S WHO WE'RE AFTER TOO. BUT HE DIDN'T DO THIS. THESE ARE HIS MEN.

WORD IS HE HIRED A CREW OF HEAVY HITTERS WHEN HE GOT HERE. THESE LOSERS DON'T FIT THE BILL.

I DON'T THINK WE'RE TRACKING THE SAME JOKER.

HEY!

THIS ONE'S ALIVE!

Uhnnn...

HE'S NOT ANSWERING ANYTHING. HE NEEDS AN AMBULANCE NOW.

I NEED TO ASK HIM QUESTIONS.

I CAN'T BE HERE FOR THAT.

ME EITHER.

GOTHAM GENERAL.
12 MINUTES LATER.

450

THIS THE VIC FROM THE WAREHOUSE ON 33RD? WE NEED A STATEMENT--

IF YOU FELLAS DON'T GET THE HELL OUT OF THE WAY HE'S NEVER GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER STATEMENT AGAIN.

WE FINALLY GET A LIVE ONE AND SOME CANDY STRIPERS WON'T LET US TALK TO HIM. CAP ISN'T GONNA BE HAPPY.

MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS TO THE ABDOMEN, MAYBE THIRTY. CONTUSIONS TO THE SKULL. BROKEN RIBS.

WE NEED X-RAYS TO CONFIRM WHAT ELSE IS BROKEN. HE'S DAMN LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.

I THINK IF HE WAS LUCKY THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM QUICKLY.

BLAM BLAM

WHAT WAS THAT?

HELLO, EVERYONE. DON'T WORRY. I WON'T BE LONG.

OH, MIMI! REMEMBER ME?

PLEASE, LET US HELP THIS MAN.

CALM DOWN, DOC.

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO SHOCKY HERE EITHER. HE'S MY BEST MAN.

IF YOU DON'T LET US WORK HE WILL DIE.

BLAM

HI, LI'L BUDDY. IT'S ME. I'M HERE NOW, SO EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE...WELL, I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, ACTUALLY. BUT YOU CAN STILL HELP ME BEFORE YOU DO THAT.

YOU SAID YOU FOUND SOMETHING.

WHERE DID THE IMPOSTOR COME FROM? WHO IS HE?

...

WHAT WAS THAT? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

YOU...

YES. IT'S ME. I SAID THAT ALREADY. TRY TO KEEP UP. BUT WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME?

WHO IS HE?!

RUN!

HEY! I KNOW YOU.

HOW'S IT GOING?

OKAY.

THIS STUFF THEY GOT YOU ON ANY GOOD, ALBERT?

I GUESS.

NOT THAT YOU ASKED, BUT *I'M* DOING AWFUL. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD THINGS ARE FOR ME.

THE GUY I'VE BEEN TRYING TO KILL? WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE HE MIGHT END UP KILLING ME!

MAYBE YOU CAN CONVINCE HIM THAT THERE'S STILL GOOD IN HIM AND HE SHOULD CHANGE.

THAT'S WHAT THE HEROES IN MY COMICS WOULD DO.

THAT'S NOT REALLY MY THING.

WONDER WOMAN

WHERE DO YOU LEARN THAT CRAP, ANYWAY? IN THESE DUMB THINGS?

THE MAYOR OF DESPAIR IS BACK!

THE JOKER

ALONGSIDE HIS HENCHMEN, INCLUDING **JACKANAPES** AND **GAGGY,** IS DOING ANOTHER OF HIS FAMOUS PRANKS: KILLING EVERYONE WAITING FOR THE UPTOWN B TRAIN! EVERYBODY IS LAUGHING, BUT ONE PERSON THREATENS TO RUIN THE JOKE...

MAKING OF A MONSTER 123!

GOOD EVENING, COMMUTERS OF GOTHAM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TRAINS ARE RUNNING WITH A SLIGHT DELAY. IT WOULD APPEAR THE CITY IS SUFFERING FROM A MINOR VERMIN PROBLEM.

THE GOOD NEWS IS MY ASSOCIATES AND I HAVE BEEN CALLED IN TO DEAL WITH IT.

THE BAD NEWS IS *YOU* ARE THE VERMIN.

HA HA HA!

ACH! CAN'T BREATHE! HA!

DYING IS EASY, COMEDY IS HARD!

MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
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BUT DON'T WORRY. MY MEN AND I ARE CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONALS WHO--

Heeheehee--

WELL, MOST OF THEM. WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

HA!

HIS MASK ISN'T WORKING. HE'S BREATHING IN THE JOKER VENOM, BOSS.

WELL... WHY ISN'T HE DYING?

MAYBE HIM CAN'T DIE.

THAT'S YOUR MEDICAL OPINION, DR. JACKANAPES?

OKAY.

Haha huaaaggh--ha!

AWOOOOO

THAT SOUND MEANS IT'S TIME TO GO, BOYS.

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

THE IDIOT WHO COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUT ON A MASK? BRING HIM. WE'LL FIND SOME USE FOR HIM.

A FEW DAYS LATER...

HA HA!

ALL THE LAUGHING IS REALLY QUITE ANNOYING...

IT IS INDEED. I'M GLAD YOU CALLED. I COULD DO WONDERFUL THINGS WITH THIS BOY. DO YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS?

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, MAYBE, TO TURN HIM INTO *ME?*

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

HA HA!

OH, PROFESSOR? I DON'T THINK WE'LL WANT TO USE ANESTHESIA.

I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD.

...THAT'S *CONCERNING.*

HA HA!

HA HA!

A GRUELING WEEK LATER...

THE LAUGHTER STOPPED A FEW DAYS AGO. I THINK HE'S DEAD, BOSS.

IF YOU BROKE MY LITTLE TOY, PYG...

I DOUBT HE'S DEAD. I TRIED TO KILL HIM A FEW TIMES IN SURGERY FOR FUN AND FOUND HIM QUITE RESILIENT, ACTUALLY.

I AM NOT SURE IF IT IS THE WAY YOUR GAS INTERACTED WITH HIS ORGANS OR THIS WAS A PREEXISTING CONDITION...

IF YOU GAVE ME MORE TIME TO PLA--

NOBODY KILLS MY MEN BUT ME.

I FEEL LIKE A KID AT CHRISTMAS.

OH, THE FUN WE WILL HAVE.

HA!

B-BUT YOU CAN'T BE HERE!

I *SAW YOU* GET ON THAT BLIMP!

SUMMER CAMP IS OVER. DADDY'S COME TO TAKE YOU HOME.

THANK YOU, DADDY. I MADE SO MANY FRIENDS.

EXIT

GOTHAM BANK

I AM HAPPY YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT OUR AGREEMENT.

AND I HATE TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN ITS MOUTH, BUT MAY I ASK WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?

SOMETIMES I JUST FEEL LIKE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

I MISTOOK YOU FOR A SMART MAN ONCE, CLOWN. BUT THINKING I WOULD NOT FIND YOU HAS PUT THAT SUPPOSITION TO REST.

A BIG DRINK FOR GAGGY! YUM! *HA HA!*

AH, THERE YOU ARE.

YOU FOUND ME. *HA!* BUT I ACTUALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT A PLAN I'VE HAD. WHAT IF WE LEFT GOTHAM AND--

DID YOU KILL GAGGY? WHO TOLD YOU TO KILL ONE OF MY MEN?

ONE OF ***OUR*** MEN WAS ACTING OUT, GIVING ***ME*** ORDERS. I MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN CARRIED AWAY, BUT IT'S NOTHING YOU WOULDN'T--

SIGH THIS ISN'T FUN ANYMORE. WE'RE DONE.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN--

SUCH A SHAME. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU TO PYG WHEN HE ASKED. BUT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE USEFUL.

I AM! I STILL CAN BE! IMAGINE HOW SCARED EVERYONE WILL BE WHEN THEY REALIZE THERE ARE TWO OF US?!

BLAM

BLAM

THE WORLD IS SCARED OF ME ALREADY. TWO OF ME IS JUST DUMB.

WHAT NOW, BOSS?

ANYONE HUNGRY?

The End

HEHEHH...

FRANCAVILLA F.23

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE

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ORIGINAL DC STORIES BY WEBTOON

volume ONE

MARI JUST LEARNED MAGIC IS REAL.
FRESHMAN YEAR IS GONNA BE A DOOZY.

VIXEN: NYC

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Written by
JASMINE WALLS

Art by
MANOU AZUMI

The hit WEBTOON series is now in print!

August

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DAWN OF DC

BATMAN/CATWOMAN

THE GOTHAM WAR

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THE BAT AND THE CAT COLLIDE WITH THE SOUL OF THEIR CITY AT STAKE!

AUGUST

- *Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War - Battle Lines #1*

SEPTEMBER

- *Batman #137*
- *Catwoman #57*
- *Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War: Red Hood #1*

OCTOBER

- *Batman #138*
- *Catwoman #58*
- *Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War: Red Hood #2*
- *Batman/Catwoman: The Gotham War: Scorched Earth #1*

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP